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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

IN THIS NUMBER

IRIS FOR CALIFORNIA GARDENS
GROWING THE BEARDED IRISES
ARTICLES BY C. F. SAUNDERS and
PETER D. BARNHART

OCTOBER, 1928

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No. 4

IRIS FOR CALIFORNIA GARDENS

Sydney B. Mitchell

To most gardeners, in California at least, the growing of irises is limited to one section of a very large genus, to the tall bearded irises typified by the white *Iris Albicans*, or the purple *Iris Germanica*, so common everywhere in March, and their more beautiful relations which glorify our gardens in April and May. With full realization that we can grow many other species and that we have even very lovely natives, these brief notes will be limited to the tall bearded or pogoniris, so called because each of the drooping petals or falls has a prominent central growth of hairs varying from white to deep orange in color.

It is doubtful if there is any hardy herbaceous plant so adapted to our California conditions, and therefore so easy to grow. The several wild species from which our garden varieties are descended have come from around the eastern Mediterranean, which has about our range of temperature and our alternations of rainy and dry seasons. Consequently they find themselves perfectly at home and happy under the natural conditions here, while such popular perennials in eastern American gardens as the paeony, a native of cold Siberia and the perennial phlox, whose wild ancestors come from the eastern United States with its cold winters and frequent summer rains, require strenuous attempts to provide artificial conditions to their liking. By all means try a few plants not too easy to grow, but the bulk of gardening should be with materials happiest under ones natural conditions.

Here I must comment on one complaint which is often given as a reason why the tall bearded irises are not more grown—their comparatively short season of flower. As a matter of fact, this season is only short where the selection of varieties is limited, and by a more careful choice can be extended through three months. This may not be long enough for a gardener whose preference is for geraniums, petunias, or perhaps dahlias, but it is far longer than one gets from daffodils and tulips, and as long as lilies or chrysanth-

mums in most gardens. Is it not true that the flowers we like best have their seasons? Personally I wouldn't want primroses or daffodils all the year, and if irises flowered all summer they would wear me out.

Is there any easier plant to grow than the bearded iris? What does it require in location first of all? When irises fail to flower it is generally because they are in shade. They will grow and produce leaves without sun, but if you have no place where they can get sunshine at least half the day, better grow something else. They will of course stand full sunlight and grow well on parched banks facing south or west. In Southern France they are used to face terraced slopes and can likewise be used to cover fairly steep banks in California. But they do as well or even better on the level. For soil they make few definite requirements, though they have preferences. In sandy soils such as one finds in Alameda or San Diego they are less vigorous and need more fertilizer than on heavier soils. Much stress has been given to their preference for a soil containing much lime rather than an acid one, but I have no evidence that this is at all important. Where the soil has not been devoted to them for several years they will thrive in the average garden without fertilizer, but in time it will be desirable to replenish their food. In these days when farm manure is so hard to get and in any case is full of weed seeds, it is doubtful if the small gardener can do better than dig in pulverized sheep manure for quick results, and bone meal for more permanent if delayed effect.

Regarding watering there seems to be a general belief that the iris needs a great deal. This is true of Japanese, Siberian, and some few other irises, but not of the bearded varieties. Water these when you plant them until they are established, but in the cooler parts of California, around San Francisco Bay for example, they can go without watering all summer when well established, but in the south and the interior an occasional good soaking is desirable, and it does no harm anywhere. When we get a dry spring watering

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certainly gives better flowers, but don't sprinkle, soak.

When should irises be planted? Really, they are very accommodating, and, if necessary, they can be moved any time. But there are undoubtedly some times which are far better than others. The period favored by experienced growers extends from shortly after they cease flowering to about October, when vigorous root growth sets in with the fall rains. Moving bearded irises in spring does not kill the plants, but it is somewhat of a shock to lift them in full growth, and consequently the flowering will be comparatively poor until they are again well established. Remember they are not bulbs, and should not be dug up and stored over summer. They will stand a good deal of drying out if replanting is delayed, but they don't like it. The plant consists of a thick fleshy rhizome. This should not be deeply buried but planted just beneath the surface. The real roots grow out of it, and from one end develops the fan of leaves which eventually produces the flower stalk. Plant firmly and cut back the foliage to about six inches, as long leaves catch the wind and loosen the plant while it still has few roots.

A common reason for the failure of bearded irises to flower is that these very vigorous plants get crowded. There are not any rules for how often they should be divided, for some varieties multiply faster than others, and some garden conditions promote more growth than others. A fair average would be from two to three years, but the time can be postponed by digging out some of the growth and putting in good soil in their places. Overcrowded conditions prevent the formation of flower buds which takes place in summer. Consequently there are often few flowers the spring after dividing crowded rhizomes. It takes a year for them to recover, not from moving but from over-crowding.

The most satisfactory way to grow irises in a garden is to mass them in a particular part, preferably one which will not be very prominent all the year, for they are not interesting when out of flower. A better effect is obtained by clumps, several rhizomes of each variety than by one of a kind. Of course the taller varieties are best at the back and the shorter ones and those with very complicated color schemes nearer the path. While the plantings are still thin it is feasible to put gladioli in between or such annuals as the larkspur, which has little basal foliage. Do not cover the rhizomes with such shading plants as petunias or verbenas. Clumps of irises throughout a herbaceous border are attractive, and give a distinct note in their season and are not shabby afterwards.

The selection of varieties is not easy as

(Continued on Page 16)

AZTECS IN THE GARDEN

Under the title "Plantas Utiles de la Republica Mexicana," there has recently been published in Mexico City a valuable popular account of a large number of plants that occur in Mexico and are esteemed there for their economic uses. The author is a well-known Mexican scholar and botanical instructor, Prof. Maximino Martinez, Honorary Chief of the National Herbarium. Each plant is discussed in relation to its habitat, culture, chemical composition and application to industry, alimentation, medicine, etc. By way of good measure there are ample notes on the plant's history and popular names, as well as an extensive bibliography.

Very many of the plants treated are familiar to Californians. Cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes, guavas and sunflowers, papayas, chayotes and frijoles, marigolds and tigridias, all these and more played serious parts in the economic life of the Montezumas, and their Aztec names, more or less worn down by centuries of use, occur in the popular speech of Mexico today. In a chapter on the Pepper-tree, Prof. Martinez expresses doubt that this tree, which is known to be a native of Peru, was first introduced into Mexico by the early Peruvian viceroy Mendoza, as is generally stated. He believes it more likely that it existed in Mexico before the conquest, though probably not abundantly, and that migratory birds were the responsible cause. At any rate it is significant that the Aztecs had names for both the tree and its fruit. Another interesting item I have gleaned from this entertaining book is that the White Sapote (*Casimiroa edulis*) has a great reputation in Mexico for inducing sleep, an idea in which the old Aztecs participated, for one of their names for this fruit was "sleep-zapote". Mexican physicians have sometimes used a mild extract from the seeds to produce slumber in insomniac patients. Large doses, however, are said to be deleterious, even fatal.

The text is in Spanish, a fact that will be a bar to some readers, but the diction is simple and of easy comprehension by even a novice in the language. The book is obtainable from the author at Morelos 86, Mexico City, for two and a half American dollars.

—C. F. Saunders.

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS

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A NEW KEY TO THE SPECIES OF EUCALYPTUS

"A Key to the Species of Eucalyptus Grown in California," published in the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences of June 22, 1928, should be a valuable help to all who are desirous of identifying the various species of this difficult genus. This key differs considerably from the form usually provided in botanical works, and it is thought it will be found very easy to use. The author is Mr. Eric Walther, who is one of the staff of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and has made a study of the tree as he has found it growing in California. Copies of the key may be had from the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, and the price is 50 cents.—C. F. S.

GARDENERS

By Peter D. Barnhart

Gardeners are born; they are not made, neither can they be made. They are not the product of schools any more than are painters or sculptors.

True it is, schools may teach the mechanical part of the art of gardening—drawing landscape scenes or designs, with approximate costs of such designs as they appear on paper, when the work is actually done, but such education does not make a gardener in the best and the broadest sense of the word.

The love of, and for plants must be inherent, if he who attempts to grow them, dreams of success in this line of human endeavor.

Of course the flame of desire for fine plants and a beautiful garden may be small in the beginning, but if the fuel of thought, and of earnest, patient, endeavor be added to it, then a brilliant blaze of great achievement will be the result.

Plants, like people, are temperamental, whimsical. They, too, have their peculiarities which must be studied, and their wants supplied if they are to be happy.

Now the word "happy" may seem out of place when applied to members of the vegetable kingdom, nevertheless it is absolutely correct.

True they are mute, but they do express their pleasure in luxuriant foliage and brilliant bloom, when grown in congenial surroundings and attended with loving care.

Fertile soil, thorough drainage, sunlight or shade, pure water, and love are essential to successful gardening, but the greatest of these is LOVE.

Costly equipment, such as glass houses, lath houses, perfect propagating frames, are of little avail to any one who dares to play the game of floriculture, if that one is not thoroughly in love with his work.

I am led into this channel of thought from

observations made on a tour of the continent during the summer, which is about to end.

Poor in purse, but rich in love for plants, the patient, persevering, industrious residents of railroad section foreman homes were quite as interesting, neater in appearance, and more beautiful, than were many of the pretentious homes where wealth and refinement are supposed to abide.

A very fine, a very remarkable example of the gardener's art may be seen at 513 Ezra Street, on the east side of Los Angeles. Mrs. S. E. Campbell, who has passed the fourth score mile post in life, is the gardener.

Two Phoenix canariensis palms are the prominent features of the garden. The petioles of the dead leaves were sawed off and left long enough to form pockets on the bole of the tree. Into these pockets have been planted Boston Ferns and Campanula carpatia, of the pure white variety. The Campanulas are very luxuriant and, mingling with the ferns, form a combination of wondrous beauty.

There is no great amount of money invested in this beautiful scene, which is worth going a long way to see, but there is a great abundance of love and care bestowed upon it, and it pays; not in dollars and cents, but in the higher, the finer things of life.

It is a joy to all who pass that way. To behold it is pleasure in its purity, joy in all its fullness, and the source of contentment and happiness to the gardener.

OCTOBER WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO

By Dean Blake

In many respects October is the transition month from summer to fall. There is a noticeable decrease in the number of cloudy nights and mornings, and temperatures after sundown are much lower than those of the preceding months. The air is drier and consequently the visibility is greater. At times a warm wave may overspread the entire county, and the temperature may reach 90 degrees or higher, but, as a general thing, the maximum ranges around 70 degrees and the days have a remarkable clemency or balminess.

It is a little early for heavy rainstorms or windstorms. An occasional "tramp" storm forms to the southwest and drenches the county, but as a rule precipitation is confined to light showers. Even so, the greatest 24-hour rainfall ever recorded in the city occurred on October 4-5, 1925, when 3.24 inches was registered.

Looking over past records I find that more fog has taken place in this month than any other; that winds of gale force have never been recorded; that temperatures of 90 degrees or higher have been registered 17 times since the establishment of the station; and that there never has been a frost in the city.

TWO FLOWERS THAT THROVE BEST IN POOR SOIL

I am more interested in nature than in anything else and most particularly in that teasing, bewitching interesting division of it known as human nature.

And the phase of that human nature about which I care most to hear is epitomized in those individuals who, overtaken by extreme adversity are not overcome by it in contradistinction from those who lie down and weep and wail under evils that have been inflicted through the ages upon others before them and been endured by them.

I have in mind a story called "What Goes Up" from a collection of true stories, "Raw Material" by Dorothy Canfield.

At the time I read it first I could see Kate Sessions as an analogy for Octavia Moreau. I can conceive of her under the same circumstances behaving in exactly the same way as did that courageous and indomitable woman who by the magnetism and force of her personality was the cause of thirty-nine French women who had been in a noisome German prison for over a year issuing therefrom finer, better and more human than they had ever been before. The story in its absorbing details came back to me again when I read in the July issue of the *Farm and Fireside Magazine* the report of an interview with Chas. E. Chapin, who nine years ago was, as he had been for twenty years, city editor of the *New York Evening World* and today is convict 69690 in Sing Sing prison where he is serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife. He shot her while she slept. He wished to save her from the poverty and disgrace he had brought upon them both by speculation. He had meant to end both their lives but after he had taken hers he decided that hanging was a fitter end for him and gave himself up to the police. He was given life imprisonment instead. He was then 60 years old. The thing of especial interest to garden lovers is this: when Chas. Chapin entered Sing Sing it was a group of forbidding looking buildings set in acres of rocks and cinders. Today, because of him, a man who had never made a garden or owned one, it looks like the estate of a copper king. Birds, flowers, pools, shrubs, trees and greenhouses have replaced the rocks and cinders as contentment (comparative) and peace and beauty have risen from the ashes and rubbish of a burned out soul.

Seeing him, dejected, forlorn, in the depths of despair, the warden set him to work in the garden. Garden magazines advertised the fact and from many sources came practical help; 500 bulbs from an importer (I regret that his name was not given that we might honor it), 3000 rose bushes from the American Rose

Society, \$5000 worth of specimen trees from the Amawalk Nursery where trees sell from \$100 a piece up to \$700, plants, seeds, garden books from individuals and firms, and even fertilizer from an interested farmer and the barren soil and the barren soul blossomed into beauty together and on the dining tables and beside the hospital beds of 1700 of the world's unhappiest, flowers give off their fragrance and their color; bird songs penetrate to ears that have never heard their music before and green trees spread their blessing on tired, despairing eyes. I am wondering for the first time what kind of grounds surround the prisons of California and if there isn't a field for concerted work on the part of the Garden magazines of this state.—N. K. B.

STREET TREE OBSERVATIONS

On a recent visit to Beverly Hills I was much impressed with the excellent condition of the trees in the parking spaces. Of course the good soil of that section gives them a vigorous growth—but their symmetrical condition shows intelligent and regular care both as to staking and trimming. One street has Arizona Ash, very fine, and *Casurina Stricta* are very fine there.

In the exclusive Bel Air section, Oaks of fair size were being planted at \$25.00 each.

In Anaheim one street has been planted to *Pittosporum undulatum*. All the plants had been grown for sidewalk planting before they were set out and were about 7 to 8 feet tall with small but well shaped formal tops and perfectly straight stems and all were well staked.

The staking of a sidewalk tree should be seriously considered. The stake should be at least 8 feet above the ground, of redwood 2 inches by 2 inches and it should be placed on the leeward side of the tree so that the tree will be against the stake. If otherwise set the tree is blown away from the stake and in most cases does not grow symmetrically and will not be well balanced as to its limbs. Nine out of ten trees are staked wrongly in this respect. When trimmed the branches on the windward side should be left much longer than on the leeward side.

If a small tree 18 inches to 24 inches tall is set out it can be grown straight without a stake if it is not trimmed at all—except a nipping of the branches—but of course it cannot withstand abuse and a stake is a protection. Then as it grows taller and taller the side branches that are near its base are kept nipped back and all along the stem also—just the ends. When the tree is tall enough to be trimmed up with a clean stem that is straight and strong, the top will be able to hold its own.—K. O. Sessions.

The Oct. and Nov. Gardens

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch

October is probably the greatest bulb planting month in Southern California and is quite early enough for such varieties as narcissus, tulips, hyacinths and others that need good root growth rather than top growth at this time of year, and this end can be better attained by cooler conditions of soil and temperature. On the other hand, it is well to push forward with the planting of such early bulbs as freesias, watsonias, amaryllis and bulbous iris, all of which give better results from early planting.

Speaking of Amaryllis, it seems strange that the Johnsonii type with its beautiful large crimson flowers with white stripe down the center, is not more planted around San Diego. It is easy to raise, the blooming period is long and you get many blooms to the plant and they are not only very effective in the garden but make a wonderful cut flower.

Don't forget to plant a few ranunculus of the turban type, the very double ones like rosettes. The Chrysantheflora Anemones are also double but looser in habit of growth. Anemone, Saint Brigid, with their immense blooms of double flowers in colors of red, pink, white and lavender are also well worth planting.

Ixias should also go in now; they are pretty flowers of red, yellow, pink and other colors, growing on long graceful wiry stems and fine for cutting. Also Ornithogalum or Star of Bethlehem, star shaped flowers, white with black centers.

Yellow Calla Bulbs are now ready; these lilies are very fine for garden or pot culture. The blossom is large and a deep golden yellow, the foliage is handsome and spotted white.

Narcissi are beautiful and popular and easy to grow. They are fragrant and last a long time in water and are especially fine for planting in beds and borders amongst shrubbery, but will grow in full sun. When allowed to naturalize amongst trees and shrubs they will come up year after year. I can well remember them as a boy in the South of Ireland, the sweet smelling daffodils, coming up through the grass under the trees in the lawn, where the bulbs had been undisturbed for years, and

I can imagine now I can smell the fragrance of the flowers. In that country they practically took care of themselves, but in this dry land they need a little more care. Like other bulbs they like a good easily worked garden soil. Plant about five inches deep. Emperor, King Alfred and Glory of Sassenheim are three good ones in the daffodil class, the first named being the finest of the three, color pure yellow.

The Darwin Tulip is the most popular tulip here, it is long stemmed and comes in many bright colors and many people are successful in raising good flowers. Do not use barnyard manure at time of planting; it should be spaded in several months later. Use bone meal well mixed in the soil around the bulb or a little below the bulb. There are many beautiful shades of colors in tulips including pink, yellow, scarlet, heliotrope, black, crimson, etc. The Breeder Tulips are also much thought of, the colors are not so bright as the Darwin but the flowers are very large.

In preparing your ground now for planting of any kind, remember that we have not had rain for a good many months, consequently the ground a few inches below the surface is sure to be very dry, unless you have been irrigating by furrow the last month or two, so be sure to irrigate thoroughly and cultivate deeply, working surface to a fine mulch before planting, while it is late now to spade heavy animal fertilizers into the soil for many plants and bulbs, you can use these fertilizers as a mulch on the surface of the ground, (not necessarily very close to the plants) to help conserve moisture and to be very gradually assimilated by process of irrigation and cultivation.

Hasten the planting of seeds of perennials and annuals so that you may have strong plants for winter, spring and summer blooming; Columbine, Canterbury Bells, Delphinium, Salvia, Verbena, Gaillardia and many other perennials are satisfactory.

The new Petunia "Theodosia" is fine, golden yellow center with rose pink petals, ruffled type, also Calendula "Sensation," fine large double flowers with crimson sheen, particularly under artificial light.

(Continued on Page 14)

The California Garden

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EDITORIAL

P. D. Barnhart: We are glad to have Mr. Barnhart back in Garden columns again. He has recently returned from a 4 months' tour of the Atlantic coast and promises to let us have, in future issues of the magazine, the benefit of what he saw during that trip, with particular reference, of course, to garden matters.

Letters: Three letters have recently come to the writer's attention that may be of interest to Garden readers. The first two relate to conservation of wild plants and the third to the suppression of unsightly billboards and other "scenery-obscuring objects". Little use to protect beautiful and rare plants and flowers along the roadside and then have them hidden from view by unsightly, man-made, blemishes. The Editor commends Mr. Rathburn's letter and invites suggestion and comment. The letters referred to, follow:—

Board of Supervisors,
San Diego County,
San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

May I congratulate you upon the splendid wild flower protective ordinance, (the best in the State), that your Board has recently passed. I shall appreciate it if you will send me several copies of this ordinance for distribution.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am

Very truly yours,

MRS. BEN L. CLARY,
Chairman, Conservation, Birds and Wild Life, Riverside County Fed. Women's Clubs.

Editor, California Garden:—

I note with pleasure the attention you have been giving, in your last two issues, to the conservation of wild flowers. Each trip I make to the south encourages me in the work, but we still have a great deal to do.

This spring I was sorry to notice that depredations made upon the desert holly and to realize that it is now quite scarce in frequented places. This is a plant for which we should secure protection. The various Calochortus and Brodiaea are rapidly diminishing and should also be added to our conservation list.

GERTRUDE LESTER ROUNTREE,
Carmel, California.

To The Editor:

Doubtless you have noticed the rapid increase in unsightly and depressing blemishes lining our principal highways in California. These roads cost millions of dollars and unfold scenic vistas that the tourists cross the entire country to see. These tourists are a source of immense revenue and it would appear that we should set our house in order if we are to continue to attract them.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent annually in telling of the glories of Southern California for the motorists, and then when they get here they find our leading boulevards walled in with billboards, deserted hot dog shacks, dumping places and similar scenery-obscuring objects, making a trip over some of the roads of Southern California resemble a tour through a back alley or a railroad yard, rather than a trip through our far famed and beloved California.

In various sections of the east well organized campaigns are devoted to preventing this sort of thing in the future and cleaning up the roadside in the present.

While the Automobile Club of Southern California is striving through every means in its power to keep our roadsides wholesome and beautiful, and to prevent marring or obscuring the scenery, it would appear that the clean-up job can best be done by localizing it and each community doing its part.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

As you know, the time tried and best method of arousing a community to its duty is through its newspapers. It is with this thought in mind that I am suggesting that you take the initiative in your locality in putting this situation before your readers through editorial utterances, and inspire your chamber of commerce and other civic organizations to get busy on a "clean up the roads" campaign.

MORRIS M. RATHBURN,
Manager, News Department,
Automobile Club of Southern California.

Japanese Buckwheat: An inquiry has come to the Editor concerning the use of Japanese buckwheat to smother out Bermuda grass in a lawn. Investigation has failed to develop any source of Japanese buckwheat seed. In fact, the writer must confess he does not know any buckwheat by this name. Will the inquirer, whose name was not given, furnish a little more information concerning this buckwheat?

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Floral Association was held Tuesday evening, September 18 in the Floral Building, Balboa Park.

The president, Mrs. Greer, called the meeting to order and made the following announcements: The Chrysanthemum Show is to take place some time during the second and third week in October. A letter was read from Mr. Dorland, president of the Civic Orchestra Association, expressing appreciation of the interest shown and support given by the Floral Association. The Red Cross office of the Naval Hospital wrote thanking the Association for the flowers sent from the Flower Show.

Mr. McLoughlin being unable to address the meeting because of a conflict in dates, Mr. Osborne of the Horticultural Office kindly gave the large audience present a most interesting talk on bulbs. Mr. Osborne outlined the history of bulb growing in San Diego, mentioning Mr. Cushman as our first grower and Luther Gage of Carlsbad as the second person to take up this industry in San Diego county. He then enumerated various bulbs which can be so successfully grown here, such as narcissus, gladiolus, iris, ranunculus, anemone and many others. At the conclusion of his talk Mr. Osborne invited the audience to ask questions which he answered most ably.

Some interesting specimens of shrubs had been brought in, which Miss Sessions named and described. There were also some beautiful dahlias shown.

At the close of the meeting bulbs contributed by some of the members were distributed and the House Committee served delicious refreshments.

W. SINCLAIR, Sec.

EVERGREEN ELM

By K. O. Sessions

Botanically it is *Ulmus parvifolia*, and in a mild climate is evergreen. In Oregon and Washington it is deciduous—but it will grow well in the milder sections of the United States and has been known to stand zero weather. Some specimens have been grown in Boston, Mass.

This elm has small leaves as its specific name implies. The leaf is dark green and glossy on the upper surface, and the new leaves on the tips of the branches are generally a bronzy red. It will reach 80 feet in height and have a heavy trunk in favorable soil and locations. The thin outer bark peels off in irregular patches making intricate and very beautiful patterns in fawn and gray. This variety branches well from the ground up and is therefore useful for a large hedge or wind-break. It will withstand considerable drought and a fair amount of alkali, so the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, D. C., reports.

It is grown by the Chinese for lumber because the wood is durable and tenacious. It is also recommended for timber in the United States. As a shade tree or for the lawn or for the rear yard it is perfection—both in habit and rapidity of growth. For a sidewalk tree it must be well staked and kept well trimmed for some years. Its central or main stem should always be staked if the tree is to be symmetrical.

San Diego has some good specimen trees of this elm and well worth observing. The largest is in the garden of Mr. A. D. Robinson, Rosecroft, Point Loma. It has never been trained or trimmed, has a spread of more than 50 feet, and is a real garden summer house and children's play house.

At Mr. M. Kew's garden, northwest corner of Spruce and Park Avenue is a large tree.

Specimens of different sizes are flourishing in the following gardens:

Mrs. N. E. Barker, Third and Walnut.

Mr. Ralph Jenny, Alameda Drive and Sunset, there are two trees over front entrance.

Mr. Henry Lippitt, corner Pine and Hortensia.

Mrs. E. P. Alling, northwest corner Spruce and Curlew.

Mrs. Clinton G. Abbott, Hermosa and Valle Vista.

Mrs. Stockwell, corner Palmetto and Plumosa Way.

Mrs. McFettridge, Plumosa Way.

Mr. Frederick Jackson, also on Plumosa Way near Randolph.

GROWING THE BEARDED IRISES

By J. Marion Shull

(In Bulletin of The American Iris Society)

In attempting to direct the steps of the beginner into the paths that lead to Iris enthusiasm it is fortunate that the subject we deal with is so unusually tractable, so simple in its every essential requirement. Few of our cultivated plants are capable of giving so much in return for so little of care and attention as are the Bearded Irises. Many of the newer ones and some of the older are perfect gems of the flower world, and yet they need neither deep digging nor extravagant fertilizing, neither petting nor winter protection, only a spot in the sun they may call their own, and at intervals of a few years a helpful thinning. What more could the garden lover ask? Any soil that will grow corn and is reasonably well drained will answer, and whether it contains much or little lime is apparently of small moment, for they grow equally well in our coastal plain Maryland soils, deficient in lime, and in the richly lime-laden soils of Ohio.

The best possible soil conditions, however, are such as will be found in a good garden where manuring and thorough cultivation have been maintained a sufficient number of years to produce a fairly rich soil practically free of serious weed pests. In weedy soils it is quite impossible to keep the clumps clean after the first couple of years and it may be necessary to reset at more frequent intervals than would otherwise be required. With such soil no fertilizer need be added, and under no circumstances should fresh stable manure be used.

How to plant depends somewhat on whether plants are obtained near at hand and are merely reset or have undergone shipping for some distance. The reset plant may have all its fine roots alive and uninjured, in which case it can be given its natural position which has been aptly described as sitting in the soil like a duck sits in the water, the roots spreading diagonally downward and the earth firmed over them providing all the anchorage they need. Safe shipping, on the other hand, requires drying off and many or possibly all the roots are sacrificed, in which case new roots must be sent out from the rhizome. So, if plants are received by mail, they need be set a little deeper but only deep enough to sit steadily in place and ought not to be wholly covered with soil.

The Bearded Irises have no truly dormant period except in Winter but with their fleshy rhizomes to tide them over the hard places of the season they may be planted at any time without jeopardizing their lives, but the time of planting does affect them in their

bloom. Flower buds are formed in late summer or fall and this fact determines the best time for planting or resetting. If planted in the spring the flower buds will either blight or come relatively weak and stunted. If planted too late in the summer, but before flower buds have been formed, there may not be sufficient time to root in and prepare for a spring-blooming period. Thus it happens that the very best time for planting is right after the last blooms are gone, giving plenty of time to become thoroughly established and to lay down blossom buds for the coming spring. Commercial growers find it more convenient to handle the plants a little later as they are then in better condition for shipping, so that most such planting is done in August and September, the effect on the succeeding bloom then depending largely on whether or not the remainder of the year is a good growing period.

While the Bearded Irises are most effective in considerable masses of a single kind, it is not necessary for the beginner whose funds may not be unlimited to buy plants enough to do this from the start. A more interesting plan is to secure single plants of some of the finer sorts and from these develop the clumps that your plans really call for later. It takes a little longer and calls for some thinking ahead, but what would be the fun of gardening if it were not for planning ahead?

It is not the intention here to suggest varieties, but most catalogs now carry the numerical rating given by the American Iris Society, and while these figures may not be final, they are as yet the best guide available as regards quality. Referring to personal tastes as to color, etc., it is then desirable to secure as many varieties rating at \$0 or above as the pocketbook will hold out for. At first these may be planted merely in a garden row about a foot apart and left undisturbed for two years. After blooming the second year they may be taken up and the rhizomes broken into as many natural joints as can be found with separate roots attached. The number will vary with the growth habits of the variety and may be as few as four or as many as forty. In the meantime the color and height characteristics and time of bloom will have been learned and can be utilized in planning the grouping of the clumps for garden effect. Plants in such clumps should not be set closer than eight inches apart at the start, and if the soil is fairly free of grass or weeds they may continue undisturbed for from three to five years or longer, until the centers become too crowded to bloom well, in which case either the whole clump should be reset or the most crowded central portion may be removed, some fresh soil added, and enough new plants set in to restore good bloom. It is usually

well to water newly set plants, not because they really need the water, for they may lie out in the sun like a Cactus for months and still refuse to die, but merely to settle the earth firmly about their roots and hold them well in place till new roots are formed. If clumps are growing on the lawn the grass should be kept away some six or eight inches all around them.

If the element of surprise and uncertainty is desired in the Iris garden it may be secured by permitting pods of seed to mature on some of the best varieties, always remembering, however, that seed production is an exhaustive process and that unless seeds are desired it is better to snap off while still young all such pods as form, thus throwing all the plant's energies into making new rhizomes for the next year's bloom. The seed will ripen in July or August and is best allowed to dry and remain so until October when it should be sown about an inch deep in a seed bed out of doors. Most of the seeds will germinate the following April and when a couple of inches high should be carefully transplanted into rows wide enough apart to cultivate between and with the plants at least eight inches apart in the row. If good growing conditions prevail most of these will bloom the following year and while none of them may be as fine as the parent from which the seed came it may safely be expected that many or all of them will be quite different.

There are few "don'ts" to be set down in regard to the Bearded Irises, the most important one being, don't fail to provide satisfactory surface drainage. Standing in watery hollows after rains and particularly in wintertime, is almost certain to prove disastrous. And don't use any soggy mulch, or stable manure, about them at any time. If the soil is too poor to grow the prize-winning blooms you would like to produce, it is permissible to work into it some bone meal before planting and to give a light annual dressing each autumn afterward, but it is safest to use no other fertilizer of any kind. Stable manure and mulch are injurious for the same reason and in the same way that is is harmful to let them stand with their feet in water; too much moisture providing just the right conditions for the development of the bacterial rot of the rhizomes, the one really serious disease to which they are subject, but which is seldom very destructive if good drainage is secured.

And now in closing, just one word of warning: If you would avoid becoming an Iris enthusiast never let yourself acquire beyond the fifth variety—more than that will lead on and on into a veritable garden of enchantment.

FLOWER SHOW REPORTING

THAT FALLS SHORT

Sometimes we complain because horticulture is not sufficiently recognized by the world at large, because it is not given the sort of position it appears to be entitled to alongside of other, no more important factors in human affairs. An illustration of what we mean is provided by the following paragraphs from a newspaper account of a flower show at one of Long Island's summer social centers.

"The prize winning breakfast table, an early American drop-leaf maple affair, was set with opal glass of the hobnail pattern. The decorations were hand-crocheted mats in mauve and blue and opal glass vases of blue flowers.

"Amethyst marble glass of the Civil War period was used for the luncheon on an early American walnut hutch table, which was dressed with hand-crocheted square doilies in amethyst featuring the old pop-corn stitch. Blue and purple flowers in tall marble glass vases and tall fruit dishes containing dark red apples and large bunches of deep purple grapes carried out the color scheme, which extended even to the square black glass plates and the amethyst water glasses."

Why not a word or two about the kind and quality of flowers used, as well as about the accessories? Imagine a dog show report stating that the "championship was won by a handsome brownish dog shown by a tall lady strikingly dressed in a tan suit with lavender hat, shoes and stockings!"

HINTS FOR CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Disbud vigorously all branches, only number of flowers you wish on each plant. If you have not mulched, do so and tie to good stakes or wire so the stems will be nice and straight. As soon as blooms are out be sure to attach a plant label for those you wish to keep for another year.

Do not cultivate but watch for bugs in tips where buds are forming. And above all give plenty of water and 1st of October provide cover to protect from fog, sun and rain.

Garden varieties need tying just the same as exhibition kinds and keep colors separated.

After each application of fertilizer be sure to water plants before applying again.

MRS. E. STRAHLMAN,
2631 A Street.

(Anyone interested in Chrysanthemums is invited to call the third week of October to see the garden.)

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

GARDENING URGED AS UNIVERSAL SPORT

Gardening as a sport for the tired business man, or as an adventure for anyone, is the theme of a handbook, "Adventures in Flower Gardening," by Professor Sydney B. Mitchell, Director of the School of Librarianship at the University of California. The book, which contains a list of the best books available for the amateur gardener, is part of the "Reading With A Purpose" series being sponsored by the American Library Association.

"At twenty-five one must give up football, at thirty-five baseball, at forty-five tennis; even to the golfer comes a day when he cannot make the score that once was easy, and the aging participant looks around in vain for someone he can beat. But one never gets too old for gardening. It is a sport which takes the indoor worker—and increasingly more of us are coming into that class—out of doors," says Professor Mitchell.

While some people regard those who garden as "mild maniacs, continually frustrated by winter's cold, summer's heat, by damp and drought, by insect pests, and all the inevitable obstacles encountered in a game with variable Nature," the gardener is to be envied, according to Professor Mitchell. "Gardening is a game or contest in which many may well take part," he says.

"He is to be pitied who does not know the thrill of the first crocus or primrose, who has never triumphed in raising a finer iris or more perfect gladiolus than the world or his neighbor has ever seen," says Professor Mitchell, who himself has an exceptional garden in Berkeley. He was recently awarded the Dykes memorial medal for the introduction of the best new American iris in 1927.

Professor Mitchell, who has made a life-long avocation of gardening, discusses in his handbook the small garden, leaving untouched gardening on large estates. He discusses the careful planning of color schemes in the small garden, "rock gardening," "wild gardening". He mentions the possibility of arranging a garden in such a manner that flowers of some sort are always in bloom.

The list of books recommended by Professor Mitchell for the small gardener were selected for their interest. He has attempted to avoid recommending both the books, written in a poor style by a gardener, unintelligible to the amateur reader, and the sentimental and vague works of mere nature enthusiasts. His book is on sale for a nominal sum in public libraries, or may be borrowed as a reference.

"MY GARDEN"

(The writer is deaf and totally blind)

I have always enjoyed gardening, my mind of yore ran to vegetables. Now I am cultivating a flower garden. My flower garden never received any light, the bright sun's rays nor the milder moon beams never shine upon it, still it thrives. It is young but is doing very well. You may wonder how one who can't see the bloom could plant a flower garden, set out the plants and cultivate it.

Perhaps you would like to look at my flower garden. I would be proud to show it to you and it won't take long. Thank you. We will first go through the garden way of "Imagination". We must close behind us, for there are enemies on the outside that would play havoc with the flowers if they got in. We will go down the center pathway, it is smooth and hard, it is covered with "Grit". The first bush on the right side of the path is called "Patience". It doesn't bloom very well, but I think by lots of cultivation it will do much better.

The first one on the left side is called "Cheerfulness" but the bush itself is very sensitive, sometimes the branches droop until they almost touch the ground. The second one on the right side is called "Friendship". It blooms fairly well and I think the flowers very fragrant. The next one is called "Work". It is one of my youngest bushes and is doing very well. The third one on my left side is called "Happiness," it is a very sympathetic plant. I have found that when it won't bloom no amount of cultivating it will make it bloom. I spend my excess time on "Friendship" and "Work" and when I get them to blooming good, and not till then "Happiness" will. Here is a bush that I have never as yet been able to get to bloom, "Success", those who know, say the flowers are very sweet and I have no doubt they are, for the foliage is very rich, as long as I can keep it alive I have hopes that it will bloom some day.

The little vine running hither and thither through the garden I call the courage vine, it's motive is to climb. Those tall poles in the garden are made of "Steadfastness," sometimes the courage vines climb clear to the top of them. In this hot-bed I raise the little flowers called "Smiles". I find it best to raise them in a hot-bed for as you well know, they have to be forced sometimes. The large fountain at the southern end of the path is called the "Fountain of Love and Life". Here I rest and sing and dream of a much brighter world to come. I wash my fears and tears away in its cleansing pool and feel greatly refreshed. You see I have a tall tight fence around the garden, the fence itself is made of "Perseverance" and has strong parts of "Determination," the reason for this strong

fence, there is a weed on the outside called the "Grumble Vine". It does no end of harm and absolutely no good and if it ever gets in it is very hard to get out, one time it broke down a portion of my fence and got in. I patched the fence with a strong piece of "Pluck" and cast out the vine, but the roots had taken effect and gives me no end of trouble yet.

There are two other weeds that keep me on the alert, they are called "Envy" and "Lonesomeness". There is a weed called "Selfishness," but it is so closely akin to "Envy" that I can't distinguish them, I dare say my garden is infested with it also. The "Courage Vine" helps by keeping them smothered down. Just outside the fence you will notice a large tree. In appearance it resembles a weeping willow, it is called the "Discouraging Tree," at times it casts a shadow over my entire garden, occasionally a big black bird comes and sits on its branches and sings, it is called the "Complaining Bird". It hides its neck in the swamp called "Self-pity". It doesn't come nearly so often now as it used to, it's notes are the most doleful you ever heard. I try not to pay any attention to it and when I refuse to listen it flies away.

The only implement I have used in my garden is "Iron Will".

Probably you would like a bouquet of my flowers. If you do, I would love to gather you one all right. As a center we will take a few flowers from "Patience," the blossoms on it are very scarce. We can take as many flowers as we wish from "Cheerfulness" for it is always full of bloom. We will add a few from "Hope," not very many for I want to strengthen the bush. "Friendship" is full of blossoms and we can take many from it. "Happiness" is also blooming well. You know I told you it always did when "Friendship" and "Work" did. We will put in some foliage from "Success". Sorry I have no flowers to offer you. We can take any number from the "Courage vine". I raise lots of it and it always does well. The hot-bed of "Smiles" at present is full and we can take as many as we like from it for you know if they become scarce I can force some. We will tie the bunch with a strong string of good "Resolutions" and dip them in to the "Fountain of Love and Life," this makes them more fragrant and keeps them fresh.

There you have a pretty bouquet and all from my flower garden. Everyone can have a flower garden and some so much more fragrant and brilliant than mine. It is absolutely essential, however, that they plan the garden and set out the plants themselves, this

work cannot be entrusted to others, they should do most of the cultivating themselves, but others can help materially in the work, if they will, they can help keep out the "Grumble vine," help keep down the weed of "Lonesomeness," help keep the shadow of the "Discouraging Tree" off the garden, help shoo away the "Complaining Bird" and in many other ways.

About all I can do nowadays is to cultivate a flower garden. If I can raise flowers so fragrant that they will sweeten my life and keep it from being obnoxious to others, I have done much.

If I can raise them brilliant enough to brighten the lives of others I have indeed done lots.

"GARDEN IRISES"

Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1406, under the above title, by B. Y. Morrison, was issued about a year ago, and is a pamphlet of 46 pages, and rather thoroughly illustrated. Anyone interested in the subject of Irises should secure one of these bulletins. It may be had for 10c per copy by addressing the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

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LATH HOUSE AND OTHER MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson

I was naturally very gratified by the splendid appreciation of our lathhouse written by Miss Sessions and printed in the September Garden, I mention it here because I have seen her since and she seemed a little shaky in her mind about that tuberous Begonia seedling being three feet high, so for her comfort be it set down that this plant is now within six inches of the top of a six-foot stake and making due allowance for the butt in the soil of the pot, the plant is well over five feet and still growing, moreover it has three or four side shoots three feet long.

Another item in our magazine of interest was the eulogy of the Toad. I clipped that and sent it in because this queer beastee has been relieving the monotony of a Begonia-ridden existence. Rosecroft, beside one enormous black specimen that my four-year-old son delights to have in his pocket, and several medium and small ones, has a good-sized pair with rather light colored and contrasty markings that meet me every night after dark as I go to put the cow to bed. I first observed one at the foot of a heavy pillar in the pergola, he was within a few inches of it and as my flashlight hit him he jumped at the pillar and bumped his head, he was there and did exactly the same thing for a week, then he moved over by a door in a board fence through which I passed, that was a week ago and till tonight he regularly tried to butt down the fence but tonight he was inside assaulting a board set on edge. I never could think that this performance was for my benefit, and now I am sure these devoted animals are making a determined effort to at least thin down the big night feeding ants that used to swarm in their hunting grounds, but are now reduced to a few athletic survivors. I have never seen a toad eat an ant, but the two toads have visibly increased in girth and the ants decreased in numbers. I am for the toads, anyhow they keep me up-to-date, they never fail to thrill me and give me cold shivers everytime I come on one unexpectedly, and judging by the comments of the younger generation who visit my lathhouse, to be "thrilled" is strictly the thing. Should you have ants and no toads don't try to borrow mine, they are still attached to a home mission.

Rosecroft had a most interesting visitor from Florida, he came to investigate Begonias and left to look at orchids but returned to the Begonias as more interesting and beautiful. He said that a large percentage of the residences being built at Miami Beach, and

they average a permit for such every day of the year, include an appropriation of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for a slat house. I had thought we had done our darnedest in talking of lathhouses but surely at the prices named something less damning than "Slat" might have been found. Why not a Lathed Garden or Shaded Garden? I have been afraid of it, that we in Southern California who can exploit the Lathed Garden as nowhere else in the world, would hang fire about building them, and now Florida will say we copied their lead. Oh well! It is not my fault, I have preached lathhouse so long that I forget when I started. There is another queer slant. A New York couple with a winter home in Florida left their private Pullman long enough to give the lathhouse the once over, and a few days after they had left they wrote for a price on our little portable lathhouse to be freighted to Florida, saying, "It is the most attractive one we have seen." Frankly I expect that to jar you. Must I move my factory to Palm Beach, Florida?

Really the weather man has me guessing, Not Mr. Blake, for he is always reliable, but whosoever is putting over on us this brand of shaded sunshine cum fog and wind. What should we look for in October, shall we warm up? I can almost sense my Begonias asking for information as to whether to keep on blooming or prepare for a s'esta. Every morning I get up meaning to take the cloth off the lathhouse roof, and then the sun just peaks out and laughs and postpones the matter, but I am watering sparingly, but smilingly as I think of that additional water charge, and yet trying to keep the tuberous particularly where I can get several more weeks show out of them if the sun should shine. Today a couple from Tecate strayed in, they had left home last Wednesday with the thermometer at 104 and now were shivering at the Beach and the thought of a plunge in the ocean started goose flesh all over them.

Before the next magazine comes out many of the tuberous Begonias will be going dormant and judging by queries, I have not yet been sufficiently explicit a sufficient number of times about the care of them at this period. The plant will say, now let me rest, by ceasing to make buds and the foliage taking on a yellow cast, water should then be given only enough to keep the soil from getting dry, if in pots these can be placed on their side under a bench in the lathhouse or in a protected location under shrubbery, a dry cellar or room is the worst place possible. Don't

break off the stem, let it come away normally which it will do. Do not try to take the tuber out of the soil right away, it has a thin skin which is very easily bruised unless thoroughly cured. When stored away examine occasionally to see that the soil is not dust dry. If under benches in lathhouse throw a little spray of water over them when ever watering the house. Where the tubers are taken out of the pots for storage I have practiced rolling them in sulphur but shall this year substitute Semesan.

The Lloydii or Hanging Tuberous can be left in their baskets till they sprout in the spring. Half the people who buy tuberous seem to expect that by the end of the season the tuber will be surrounded by lots of little tubers and when they learn that is not the way of the thing want to make a few thousand cuttings. As to the tuber increase, no small tubers are made, except in rare instances, but a large tuber may be divided if it makes several sprouts so that there is a sprout on each piece. The cut should be allowed to dry before planting and rubbing with sulphur is safe. Cuttings of young shoots can be rooted readily in sand, but they are worthless unless taken early in the season when they have time to make a tuber. Tubers from cuttings are usually illformed and lack the vigor of seedling stock, but with exceptional plants this method is commonly practiced, in fact as they do not come true from seed it is the only way of multiplying named varieties.

It were well to consider brightening the lathhouse with winter blooming plants such as cinerarias, tulips, narcissus, though the latter don't like much shade. The double violets are charming in baskets and pots as are choice pansies, there is no better low pot plant than a well-grown select pansy. Schizanthus and Nemesis also are very acceptable. If you are a real Begonia fan both you and the Begonias will benefit from a change.

WISTARIA AND AN ITALIAN CASTLE

It began in a woman's club in London on a February afternoon—an uncomfortable club, and a miserable afternoon—when Mrs. Wilkins, who had come down from Hampstead to shop and had lunched at her club, took up *The Times* from the table . . . and running her listless eye down the Agony Column saw this:

To those who appreciate Wistaria and Sunshine. Small mediaeval Italian Castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be Let Furnished for the month of April. Necessary serv-

ants remain. Z, Box 1000, *The Times*.

All down the stone steps on either side were periwinkles in full flower, and she could now see what it was that had caught at her the night before and brushed, wet and scented, across her face. It was wistaria. Wistaria and sunshine . . . she remembered the advertisement. Here indeed were both in profusion. The wistaria was tumbling over itself in its great prodigality of flowering, and where the pergola ended the sun blazed on scarlet geraniums, bushes of them, and nasturtiums in great heaps, and marigolds so brilliant that they seemed to be burning, and red and pink snapdragons, all outdoing each other in bright fierce color. The ground behind these flaming things dropped away in terraces to the sea, each terrace a little orchard, where among the olives grew vines on trellises, and fig trees, and peach trees, and cherry trees. The cherry trees and peach trees were in blossom—lovely showers of white and deep rose-color among the trembling delicacy of the olives; the fig leaves were just big enough to smell of figs, the vine-buds were only beginning to show. And beneath these trees were groups of blue and purple irises, and bushes of lavender, and grey, sharp cacti, and the grass was thick with dandelions and daisies, and right down at the bottom was the sea. Color seemed flung down anyhow, anywhere; every sort of color, piled up in heaps, pouring along in rivers—the periwinkles looked exactly as if they were being poured down each side of the steps—and flowers that grow only in borders in England, proud flowers keeping themselves to themselves over there, such as the great blue irises and the lavender, were being jostled by small, shining common things like dandelions and daisies and the white bells of the wild onion and only seemed the better and the more exuberant for it.

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25 cents up according to size.

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912 Linden Avenue,
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They stood looking at this crowd of loveliness, this happy jumble; in silence. No, it didn't matter what Mrs. Fisher did; not here; not in such beauty. Mrs. Arbuthnot's discomposure melted out of her. . . .

That last week the syringa came out at San Salvatore, and all the acacias flowered. No one had noticed how many acacias there were till one day the garden was full of a new scent, and there were the delicate trees, the lovely successors to the wistaria, hung all over among their trembling leaves with blossom. To lie under an acacia tree that last week and look up through the branches at its frail leaves and white flowers quivering against the blue of the sky, while the least movement of the air shook down their scent, was a great happiness. Indeed, the whole garden dressed itself gradually towards the end in white, and grew more and more scented. There were the lilies, as vigorous as ever, and the white stocks and white pinks and white banksia roses, and the syringa and the jessamine, and at last the crowning fragrance of the acacias. When, on the first of May, everybody went away, even after they had got to the bottom of the hill and passed through the iron gates out into the village they still could smell the acacias.—Countess von Arnheim, in "The Enchanted April".

THE GARDEN

(Continued from Page 5)

Primula "Snow Queen," is a good one imported from England, large flowers and very decorative and the 1928 novelties in stocks are fine including Giant Imperial "Elk's Pride," intense royal purple, twenty-four to thirty inches high, very double and sweet scented. Also Giant Imperial "Antique Copper" and "Golden Rose," both very fine.

The outstanding novelty in Verbena is Hybrid Grandiflora "Royale" of enormous size, the individual florets measuring over an inch and a quarter in diameter, color of a rich deep royal blue, with large creamy yellow eye.

October is undoubtedly a good time to plant your sweet peas. The ground is beginning to cool off, likewise the weather, but there is still warmth enough in both to promote steady growth, and you will find your Sweet Peas (likewise vegetable peas) will do much better with cooler conditions of soil and less summer heat from the sun.

Don't forget to renovate the old lawn, rake thoroughly, cut off and pull out all the devil grass you can and sow white clover and fertilize with either Groz-It, a pulverized, weedless sheep manure, or Nulife Fertilizer. I realize that this is a repetition of last month, but October is the best time to do it, so I am just driving it home!

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LOS ANGELES STATE GARDEN TO BE INTERNATIONAL

The California Botanic Garden, which is now under development at Los Angeles, will eventually become a world center for botanical research, greater in scope than any such garden now existing in the United States, according to Dean Elmer D. Merrill of the University of California College of Agriculture, who is president of the garden organization.

In a recent summary of the work now under way or planned for the future, which appeared in California Southland and Southern California Business, Dean Merrill said:

"The California Botanic Garden will naturally work on plants and plant products of the Southwest, but it will not confine its attention to this field. It is the plan of the Garden Foundation to establish the institution on the broadest possible basis and so develop it that it will form a world center for botanical research. This is a large and distinctly ambitious program, because at the present time no botanical institution in the United States ac-

tually occupies the position which is the objective of our new garden. In furtherance of this plan several expeditions have been placed in the field in foreign countries and long before the end of the year it is expected that field work under the auspices of the California Botanic Garden will be in actual progress in Hawaii, Japan, Formosa, China, Indo-China, Philippines, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, India, Ceylon, Australia and Mexico. This exploration work will be extended to other countries as rapidly as possible, for it is essential that the necessary reference collections be assembled with as little delay as possible consistent with doing the work properly."

BARBERRY DESTROYED BY MILLIONS

In the six years from 1915-1920 the estimated losses of wheat from black-stem rust in the 13 upper Mississippi Valley States amounted to an average of more than 50,000,000 bushels a year, according to estimates made by the department. In the next six years, 1921-1926, the comparative figure was less than 16,000,000 bushels. The systematic campaign for the eradication of the rust-spreading common barberry got under way in 1918, since which time more than 15,000,000 barberry bushes and seedlings have been destroyed. There still are many barberries scattered over the 13 North Central and Mountain States where the campaign is under way. These bushes are sufficient in number to cause widespread and severe epidemics of stem rust if they become infected early and weather conditions are favorable for rust development. The officials in charge of the barberry eradication campaign are as certain as ever that there is direct connection between the common barberry and black-stem rust on grains and grasses. It may never be possible absolutely to eliminate all stem rust, for a certain amount may spread northward from the Southern States, where one stage of the rust may live over the winter and propagate the rust without the presence of the barberry. However, such infections reach the Northern States late in the growing season and danger from them is small compared to the losses from rust coming directly from neighboring barberries. It has been calculated that a single barberry bush may produce as many as 64,000,000,000 rust spores in a single crop, any one of which is capable of starting a center of infection which will spread. These spores are not limited to spreading rust for short distances, for they can be carried great distances by the wind. A spore need not drop directly upon a wheat plant to start infection, as spores germinate on many grasses and spread to wheat.

SAN DIEGO WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER

Ask any one who has lived in San Diego for several years what the hottest month is and they will almost invariably answer September. In a certain way it is. While the mean temperatures of July and August are higher, it is in September that the highest readings are apt to be recorded. Indeed, of the 72 days with a maximum over 90 degrees, registered at the station since 1872, 29 have occurred in this month, but, as they are invariably accompanied by extremely low relative humidity, they are never enervating or oppressive.

The rainfall as a rule is light, the normal being but .08 inch, but an occasional southwest disturbance drifts in from the ocean with disastrous results to late fruits and raisins on the trays.

This is also the month with the maximum fire hazard. The hot dry weather is conducive to the quick ignition and rapid spreading of brush and forest conflagrations, and extra caution is imperative.

Cloudless skies prevail for days at a time; the nights become more crisp, and, except when the drying winds obtain, the air is clearer and has more of an autumn mildness.

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THE GARDEN PATH

Christian Science Monitor

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is continuing this year a program of tree planting which had a splendid start last year when over 367,000 trees were planted through the efforts of club women.

A plan of planting trees this year in honor of Mrs. John D. Sherman, president of the federation and one of the country's leaders in the field of conservation, was launched at the biennial council meeting at Grand Rapids, Mich., last June. Rhode Island women, last spring, planted a tree in honor of Mrs. Sherman. This was done at the time of their state convention. Last fall Wyoming, Indiana, Colorado and Oklahoma planted Mary Sherman trees.

Wyoming women are urging a Mary Sherman tree in every town where there is a federated club. Several clubs in Indiana have reported that trees will be planted this spring to contribute to the development of the "Mary Sherman Forest".

This activity on the part of club women will necessarily add much to the beauty of the highways and clubhouse grounds all over the United States.

Another Association has been formed with much the same object in mind. It is called "Memory Garden Association" and has as its object the comprehensive one of beautifying the Pacific Highway from Vancouver, B. C., to Mexico. It is reported that Senator Samuel Hill has carefully outlined the plans, that Queen Marie of Rumania has consented to be honorary president and Mrs. R. P. Butchard of Victoria will be president.

After the association is fully established it is proposed to offer prizes for the most effective plantings, and it is the intention of those planning this part of the program to make such regulations as will insure amateurs an equal opportunity with professionals in competing for prizes.

IRIS FOR CALIFORNIA GARDENS

(Continued from Page 2)

tastes differ and sometimes price is the most important consideration. Californians should, however, recognize that selections suggested in garden articles written with eastern readers in mind are often very misleading. Bearded irises are not as well adapted to their conditions as to ours, and the gardeners of the eastern United States stress hardiness, a matter of no importance here, where all bearded irises are perfectly hardy. I am sure that eventually the irises grown in California will be very largely those raised by California hybridizers, who naturally select what is best here. This does not mean we will not want the best from everywhere, but that we will take advantage of our conditions to grow what in some cases the East may have to do without. No one can grow better rhizomes than the California commercial growers, and they offer as wide a range of varieties as dealers elsewhere. Make your selections from their lists but in case you need help let me add that the following are all getting down in price and are very satisfactory: Alcazar, Ambassador, Argyunis, Caterina, Dream, Kashmir White, Lent, A. Williamson, Mme. Cheri, Parisiana, Prince Lohengrin, Princess Beatrice, Ramona, Seminole, Shekinah, Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau. After you get a good beginner's collection add each year one or two real advances, though some of these will be out of your reach for a few years as they are so new, and in such demand. This second list—for the future—is mostly of California introductions, the irises likely to predominate in our gardens in a few years: Asia, Avalon, Azulado, Baelrine, Bruno, Conquistador, El Capitan, Fortuna, Frieda Mohr, Los Angeles, Purissima, Mme. Durrand, Morning Splendor, Pioneer, San Francisco, San Gabriel, San Luis Rey, Santa Barbara, and the wonderful hybrid William Mohr.

(Courtesy of "Garden Homes")

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